6/19/72

RE: "CIA" Raid on Democratic National Headquarters

I am endlessly fascinated by this raid. So far, the best coverage I've seen has been NYT, which says that all the men involved have backgrounds with CIA anti-Cuban operations. McCord and Barker were directly connect with the Bay of Pigs invasion, and so was Sturgis, alias Fiorini. The two others are "active in anti-Cuban movements." All but McCord are from Miami. Barker is partners "in a seperate venture" with "a Cuban exile lawyer prominent in Republican politics in Florida."

McCord retired from the CIA in 8/70 and he is now employed by the Repub. National Committee "to assist with the installation of our security system."

Mitchell's statement about the raid was carefully worded and was, in fact, not a complete disassociation from them. He said the 5 men "were not operating either on cur behalf or with our consent." This does not say the raid took place "without our knowledge." Senator Dole's statement on this point contains the exact wording of Mitchell's, so the two must have been coordinated.

I have not seen very much on the circumstances of how the men were caught other than that the police were responding to the call of a security guard. I suspect there must have been some carelessness, although the operation is pretty far-out, and I don't know what chances it had to succeed. I have not ruled out the possibility that the men wanted to be caught, or at least the thing was arranged so they could be caught. Why? I really don't know, because at first thought it seems this would hurt the Repubs. But there is the possibility that this was intended to intimidate the Democrats, the paranoia thing, as Hoover put it.

A later AP story today says that $6500 in brand new bills, mostly $100 bills consecutively numbered, was found in the hotel room rented by the 4 from Miami.

But this blew my mind: McCord have his home address as "Rockville, Md." The story also says he operates a private security agency out of a small office in Rockville. I'm sure there are a lot of people in that town, but I can't help think about another friend of ours from Rockville.

What does Mr. Weisberg translate?

Howard Roffman